

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA— TYPHOON OF STEEL

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, “America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.” These words were spoken by President Harry S. Truman after World War II. Our courageous sailors and soldiers defended freedom and liberty on two fronts. In the Pacific, they fought on the beaches, ultimately leading to the surrender of the Japanese. Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa were the names of some of the island hopping invasion sites. Those of the Greatest Generation proved that when the peace of our nation is threatened, our people will stand up and fight. Tom Morgan is just one of those patriots in the Greatest Generation who answered the call to fight for our great nation.

When World War II began, Tom was just 21 years old. He answered his country’s call to duty and joined the U.S. Marines. He fought in all three Pacific battles: Guadalcanal, Saipan, and Okinawa. He contracted malaria on his first tour in 1942 at Guadalcanal. That didn’t stop him. In the summer of 1944, he fought in the Battle of Saipan. On July 8, 1944, the stars and stripes were raised in victory over Saipan, and Tom survived his second major battle. Less than a year later, Tom was sent to fight in the Battle of Okinawa, or the Typhoon of Steel as it was called because of intense shelling and gunfire. On that Easter morning, 1945, Tom and his fellow Marines were on board a transport ship eating breakfast in the mess hall when an enemy kamikaze plane hit their ship. Water began filling up in the mess hall, and Tom thought he was going to meet his maker. However, the man above had different plans for Tom. The hatch flew open, and Tom was able to escape. Tom and his fellow Marines sailed on to Okinawa where they stormed the beaches in the final island battle of the Pacific. The bloodiest battle yet was the largest amphibious invasion of World War II: over 60,000 soldiers invaded the island. Tom was one of them in the battle that thundered on for 82 days.

Japanese General Ushijima Mitsuru and his soldiers had created a series of defense lines across the island which provided them with a strong resistance against our soldiers. The Japanese Army staked most of their defenses at Shuri Castle. The Tenth Army battled for nearly two months, inch by inch, hill by hill, to take Shuri Castle.

The Marines seized the Capitol, Naha, and then the Japanese retreated to the southern tip of the island where many surrendered or committed suicide. The generals on both sides died in the course of battle: General Simon Buckner by a sniper and General Ushijima Mitsuru by suicide. On June 22, 1945, the

United States flag was raised in victory over Okinawa. Our soldiers would not have experienced land victory, if not for our sailor’s water victory over Japanese kamikaze aircraft.

One of my favorite battleships, the USS Texas, participated in the invasion of Okinawa. She provided initial support, gunfire support, and fended off aerial assaults for nearly two months. Suicide plane attacks by the Japanese army and navy were relentless against our navy fleet. The gunfire at Okinawa was the most extensive in history, 26 ships were sunk and 164 damaged. The Mighty T survived; she was an integral part of the Okinawa victory.

Some today forget the feats of these warriors of World War II. Some never came home. American casualties were the highest experienced in any campaign against the Japanese. More than 49,000 American casualties occurred, including 12,000 deaths. They were great Americans and we should always remember them.

My friend Tom’s story is not over; he survived his third battle at Okinawa. He remained in the Marines until 1946 and continued his service in the Reserves. He even served three months in the Korean War. At 96 years young, Tom is the oldest active lawman in the State of Texas.

President Ronald Reagan best summed up soldiers like Tom when he said, “Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference. The Marines don’t have that problem.”

And that’s just the way it is.

## DUNK CITY

**HON. FRANCIS ROONEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Florida Gulf Coast University with their return into March Madness for a second year in a row. The Eagles scored a big win against the No. 3 seed North Florida on Sunday. This is the third NCAA Tournament appearance for the Eagles since 2013.

I applaud the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles and Head Coach Dooley for their victory. There is a reason why FCGU is known as Dunk City—now go shut down more shot clocks.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM JORDAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2017*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I was attending a family funeral in Ohio on March 2, and was absent from the House floor during that day’s five roll call votes on H.R. 1004.

Had I been present, I would have voted against both Jackson Lee amendments, in favor of the Farenthold amendment, against the motion to recommit, and in favor of final passage.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1301, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2017.

Although this bill should have been finished five months ago, I appreciate and respect the bicameral and bipartisan collaboration which ultimately made this bill possible. For years I have advocated for and helped secure funding in the NDAA for Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs). I am therefore delighted to see that the final bill provides \$33,572,000 for HBCUs, a \$10 million increase over President Obama’s budget request. The funds made available through a competitive grant program will be used to improve research initiatives and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at HBCUs.

My home state of Georgia hosts countless servicemen and women, who are our military’s most important asset. These servicemembers are located on multiple military bases across Georgia, including but not limited to Fort Benning (home to over 120,000 active duty personnel and other personnel), Dobbins Air Reserve Base (through which more than 14,000 flight operations take place every year), Fort Stewart (home to the 3rd Infantry Division), and Kings Bay Submarine Base (home to the Ballistic Missile nuclear submarines of the US Navy Atlantic Fleet and which plays a key role in our strategic nuclear triad). These and other bases across Georgia are essential to our national security and I’ve long argued that there should be no additional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds for Dobbins and other military bases in my home state. I am grateful to see that the new bill prohibits funding to propose, plan for, or execute a new BRAC round.

This bill will also benefit Georgia’s industry. The F-35 Lightning II program provides the US Air Force (USAF), US Navy (USN), US Marine Corps (USMC), and a multitude of key allies with an affordable, fifth generation, stealth strike-fighter. The F-35 program also supports, directly and indirectly, countless of high-skilled jobs across Georgia, including hundreds of jobs at the Marietta plant in Cobb County, Georgia. Last year I supported the FY2017 budget request and urged procuring at a minimum an additional five F-35As and two F-35Cs. Such investments, in my view, are critical to restoring the budget cuts and the

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